

OLL 84-3395/1
24 September 1984

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OTA*

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Briefing on China for the Director of the Office of Technology Assessment (OTA) [redacted]

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1. On 24 September 1984, Dr. John H. Gibbons, Director, Office of Technology Assessment (OTA), was briefed on the organization of China's National Academy of Sciences (CAS) and the relationship between CAS and various Chinese research institutes. Dr. Gibbons sought background that might be useful to him as he visits China as a guest of CAS in October. The briefers from the Directorate of Intelligence were [redacted] (Office of Central Reference), [redacted] (Office of Scientific and Weapons Research), [redacted] (Office of East Asian Analysis), and [redacted] (Office of Global Issues). [redacted]

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2. The briefing centered on the role of Chinese officials in the scientific establishment, the impact of recent reorganizations that have resulted in numerous personnel shifts, strong Chinese interest in acquiring advanced foreign technology and managerial expertise, and the lack of coordination within the Chinese scientific community. The briefers explained the modernization process that China is experiencing and how it has affected China's approach to scientific development. They also discussed key Chinese scientists, and the problem of determining the significance of various personnel and organizational changes. [redacted]

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3. Dr. Gibbons asked a number of questions related to the trip in terms of what he might expect and how he would be treated by the Chinese. The briefers expressed strong interest in a post-trip debriefing, which Dr. Gibbons said he would be glad to provide. The Office of Central Reference provided some unclassified material (bios, press articles, and a research paper) to be delivered to OTA by Agency courier. [redacted]

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[redacted]
Liaison Division
Office of Legislative Liaison

Chief, Liaison Division, OLL

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

LEGISLATIVE LIAISON

84-3395

August 17, 1984

Telex to:

Mr. Hu Yongchang,
Deputy Secretary General
Academy Sinica
Beijing
Peoples Republic of China
Telex No. 22474--ASCHI-CN

Telex from:

Dr. John H. Gibbons
Director
Office of Technology Assessment
United States Congress
Washington, D.C. 20510
(202) 224-3695

Please confirm written
telex to Dr. Gibbons.

Message:

I am pleased to confirm the following items:

1. I will be accompanied to China by my wife, Mary Ann Gibbons. Her interests include family planning, youth and education, small farming, art, and music. We are both interested in architecture, landscaping, and archaeology.
2. My lecture will be titled "Science and Technology Policy Analysis for the United States Congress." The lecture will contain all four topics you suggested.
3. I will need a 35 millimeter slide projector for my lectures.
4. We will arrive in Beijing on Sunday, October 7. We are scheduled to arrive at 6:20 p.m. via China Airlines flight 918 from Tokyo. I will advise if there is a change in the time and flight.
5. We will assume an early train departure from Canton to Hong Kong on October 20.
6. I am sending summaries of ten OTA reports and other documents by air this week. Your embassy advised sending one copy of each that you may wish to translate and duplicate for use in China. Please advise if you desire more copies.
7. I hope to discuss CAS/U.S. National Academy of Sciences exchange activities with Mr. Li Mingde while in Beijing. Can this be arranged?
8. Other suggested visits include:

Beijing

- a. Mr. Ma Hong, Director, Center for Techno-Economic Research. Mr. Sun Shang Quin from the Center has visited OTA.
- b. Mr. Wu Mingyu, Director, National Research Center for Science and Technology for Development.
- c. Dr. Qiu Daxiong, Director, China Energy Research Society
- d. Dr. Dong Xinbao, Dean, School of Economic Management and Engineering, Qinghua University
- e. Beijing Municipal Institute of Environmental Protection.

Near Xian

If it is convenient, it would be interesting to visit with Dr. Yang Hanzhi,
Institute of the Desert. (Lanzhou)

End

C. OFFICE OF TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT

1. The Office of Technology Assessment was established in 1973 as an advisory arm of the Congress charged with providing "early indications of probable beneficial and adverse impacts of the applications of technology." To fulfill this mandate, OTA has conducted a number of assessments in such areas as energy, food, health, transportation, oceans, materials resources, etc. OTA relies to a large extent on teams of specialists assembled from government, academia and industry to prepare the individual assessments. By this method Congress hoped to recruit talented outsiders with diverse opinions, and avoid a large in-house technical staff.

2. OTA is governed by a 12-member congressional Board, a Director and an advisory Technology Assessment Council. Assessment requests can originate with the chairman of a congressional committee, a congressional member of the OTA Board, or with the OTA Director. In practice, most of the 116 requests for assessment reports made during the first three years of OTA's operation originated with committee chairmen.

3. OTA reports are available from GPO. Information about forthcoming OTA reports can be obtained by calling (202) 224-8996 or writing O.T.A., Publishing Office, Washington, D.C. 20510.